



April 4

Dear Families & Community:

Today, Governor Whitmer Executive Order 2020-35 banning on-site learning for the remainder of the year for all Michigan Schools. While this is understandable given the growing medical issues, it is equally devastating and heartbreaking news for all of us. This decision ushers in a myriad of questions, concerns, and trepidation.

Top summaries of the Executive Order include:

- Forgiveness of all snow days allowed under the law (6 total) plus an additional 13 days related to the executive order closing schools.
- An additional five days can be counted as instructional time if the district has been holding professional development sessions with their staff on how to instruct through distance learning.
- The 75% daily attendance requirement will be waived beginning March 11 for the remainder of the year.
- Districts will be required to create a continuity of learning plan on how they will deliver instruction and submit it for approval for learning to begin by April 28, 2020. An application template will be available this week. The methods are not defined, except that it can't be face-to-face.
 - The plan must include a sub-plan for high school seniors and graduation. There should be a process to certify that the students have completed the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum; however, districts can determine how that credit is awarded. The goal is to have final grades on a transcript for graduating seniors.
 - The district's plan should aim to support IEPs and 504 plans to the fullest extent possible considering social distancing and the Stay Home, Stay Safe, Save Lives Executive Order.
 - The plan will be submitted to the ISD for approval by the ISD Superintendent.
 - Once approved by the ISD, the plan must be filed with the Michigan Department of Education, which will allow school aid payments to the district to continue as if it were a traditional school year.
- Districts in a partnership agreement will have their goal attainment dates extended for this school year.



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- The SAT and PSAT will be offered in the fall for those students who missed out on taking it this spring.
- Districts will be required to continue to offer meals to eligible students and make sure the staff is receiving compensation.
- Districts will be required to provide mental health services and continue to support ISD efforts to mobilize disaster relief childcare centers.
- Students and families may not be penalized for an inability to participate in the continuity of learning plan.
- The third-grade reading law will not be enforced for this school year.
- Assessments will be suspended for this school year.
- Many laws related to assessment, including A-F, evaluations, etc. will be suspended.
- The EO includes a provision to ensure that MPSERS service credit will not be impacted.
- A provision allowing and encouraging districts to donate PPE, cleaning supplies, and other materials to local organizations who need them is included in the EO.
- The EO allows districts to adopt a balanced calendar for the 2019-2020 school year and/or begin the 2020-2021 school year before Labor Day without seeking approval from the state.
- The EO makes it clear that district facilities may be used by public school employees and contractors for the purpose of facilitating distance learning while also practicing social distancing (in compliance with the Stay Home/Stay Safe and CISA list).

As part of our planning process, please click on this link and complete a short survey regarding technology accessibility in your household: <https://forms.gle/28S3i96EKK2XtNnS9>. Keep in mind that we are not necessarily considering on-line as the only platform that will be offered to students.

In the coming days, we will be communicating additional information to our families regarding the impact of this EO and the details of district plans moving forward. We will also be publishing a schedule for parents to retrieve student items from the schools.

Together, we can come through this stronger than ever before. I wish you continued safety and health through these trying times.

Best regards,



Randy Fleenor
Superintendent